



# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## IRON ORE IN SEPTEMBER 1999

U.S. mine production of iron ore in September 1999 was 14% lower than that of August 1999, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. This production was the lowest since August 1993, when production totaled 2.8 million metric tons. Shipments in

September 1999 decreased 3% and mine stocks decreased by about 20% compared with August 1999. Consumption and trade data for September 1999 will be included in a subsequent issue.

TABLE 1  
U.S. PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENTS OF IRON ORE 1/  
(Exclusive of ore containing 5% or more of manganese)

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Production		Shipments	
	Monthly	Year to date	Monthly	Year to date
1998:				
September	5,384	46,929	5,613	44,288
October	5,279	52,208	5,626	49,913
November	5,113	57,321	5,707	55,621
December	5,269	62,591	5,733	61,354
1999:				
January	4,891	4,891	2,181	2,181
February	4,587	9,479	900	3,081
March	5,145	14,624	2,619	5,699
April	4,846	19,470	6,265	11,965
May	5,473	24,943	6,117	18,082
June	5,047	29,990	5,935	24,017
July	5,249	35,239	5,942	29,959
August	3,872	39,111	5,572	35,531
September	3,334	42,445	5,380	40,911

1/ Excludes byproduct ore.

TABLE 2  
U.S. PRODUCTION, SHIPMENTS, AND STOCKS OF IRON ORE IN SEPTEMBER 1/

(Thousand metric tons)

District	Production		Shipments 2/		Stocks 3/	
	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998
Lake Superior:						
Michigan	55	1,331	1,184	1,009	3,155	3,277
Minnesota	3,280	4,053	4,196	4,604	4,555	4,107
Total	3,334	5,384	5,380	5,613	7,710	7,478

1/ Excludes byproduct ore.

2/ Includes rail and vessel.

3/ Includes mines, plants, and loading docks.

TABLE 3  
CANADA: SHIPMENTS OF IRON ORE

(Thousand dry metric tons)

Period	Newfoundland	Quebec	Ontario	British Columbia	Total 1/
1998:					
August	2,299	946	--	8	3,253
September	1,709	1,187	--	11	2,907
October	1,747	1,379	--	9	3,135
November	1,215	1,418	--	13	2,645
December	1,651	923	--	8	2,583
Year total	21,628	13,232	651	110	35,621
1999:					
January	569	1,674	--	8	2,251
February	459	528	--	6	992
March	455	642	--	5	1,101
April	1,485	1,236	--	7	2,727
May	2,236	1,316	--	10	3,562
June	1,210	1,356	--	7	2,573
July	2,102	1,266	--	6	3,373
August	1,164	1,390	--	6	2,561

1/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

Source: Natural Resources Canada.

TABLE 4  
CONSUMPTION AND STOCKS OF IRON ORE AND  
BLAST FURNACE PRODUCTION OF HOT METAL AT U.S. IRON AND STEEL PLANTS 1/

(Thousand metric tons)

Consumption by source	Consumption of ores and agglomerates			
	August		January-August	
	1999	1998	1999	1998
United States ores	4,913	4,887	37,490	39,550
Canadian ores	410	565	3,449	4,507
Foreign ores	368	456	3,274	4,022
Total 1/	5,692	5,908	44,215	48,078
Consumption by process				
Blast furnaces	5,303	5,374	40,515	43,625
Steel furnaces	2	18	33	61
Agglomerating plants 2/	387	515	3,666	4,363
Miscellaneous 3/	—	1	2	28
Total 1/	5,692	5,908	44,215	48,078
Storage point	Stocks of ores and agglomerates			
	August 31			
	1999	1998		
Furnace yards	15,235	18,479		
Receiving/transfer docks	2,998	2,851		
Total consumer	18,233	21,330		
	Blast furnace production of hot metal			
	August		January-August	
	1999	1998	1999	1998
Hot metal and pig iron produced in blast furnaces	3,883	4,084	30,109	33,407
No. of blast furnaces operating on the last day of the month	34	38	XX	XX

XX Not applicable.

1/ Includes agglomerates.

2/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

3/ Iron ore and iron ore concentrates consumed in agglomerating plants not located at the mine or plant site.

4/ Sold to nonreporting companies or used for purposes not listed.

Sources: American Iron Ore Association (consumption of iron ore) and American Iron and Steel Institute (production of hot metal and pig iron).

TABLE 5  
U.S. EXPORTS OF IRON ORE, BY COUNTRY OF DESTINATION AND TYPE 1/

(Thousand metric tons)

Country of destination and type	1999				
	1st quarter	2nd quarter	June	July	August
Canada	500	2,271	734	400	804
Mexico	(2/)	(2/)	(2/)	(2/)	(2/)
Other	8	6	4	1	--
Total 3/	509	2,277	737	401	804
Pellets	495	2,262	726	394	803
Other	13	14	11	6	1
Total 3/	509	2,277	737	401	804

1/ Includes agglomerates.

2/ Less than 1/2 unit.

3/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 6  
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF IRON ORE,  
BY COUNTRY AND TYPE 1/  
(Exclusive of ore containing 20% or more manganese)

Country of origin and type of product	1999					1998
	August		January-August			January-August
	Thousand metric tons	Value 2/ (thousand dollars)	Thousand metric tons	Value 2/ (thousand dollars)	Value 2/ (dollars per ton)	Thousand metric tons
Australia	7	399	430	6,232	14.49	405
Brazil	541	13,030	3,074	76,378	24.85	4,165
Canada	748	21,547	3,357	101,364	30.19	5,595
Mexico	1	13	8	131	16.38	8
Peru	--	--	40	589	14.73	95
Sweden	100	3,115	254	8,065	31.75	264
Venezuela	--	--	262	19,281	73.59	697
Other	59	1,125	280	7,876	28.13	134
Total 4/	1,455	39,229	7,705	219,918	28.54 5/	11,364
Concentrates	147	2,836	647	11,407	17.63	793
Coarse ores	--	--	296	9,427	31.85	250
Fine ores	390	8,652	2,230	48,094	21.57	2,045
Pellets	793	25,169	3,864	124,589	32.24	7,776
Briquettes	--	--	195	16,929	86.82	128
Other agglomerates	125	2,572	467	9,109	19.51	365
Roasted pyrites	--	--	7	362	51.71	7
Total 4/	1,455	39,229	7,705	219,918	28.54 5/	11,364

1/ Includes agglomerates.

2/ Customs value. Excludes international freight, insurance, and other c.i.f. charges.

3/ Less than 1/2 unit.

4/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

5/ Weighted average calculated by dividing total value by total tonnage.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 7  
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF IRON ORE IN AUGUST 1999  
(Exclusive of ore containing 20% or more manganese) 1/

(Thousand metric tons)

Country of origin	Type of product						Total 3/
	Concentrates	Coarse ores	Fine ores	Pellets	Briquettes and other agglomerates	Roasted pyrites	
Brazil	27	--	390	124	--	--	541
Canada	54	--	--	569	124	--	748
Mexico	--	--	--	--	1	--	1
Other	62	--	--	100	--	--	166
Total 3/	147	--	390	793	125	--	1,455

1/ Includes agglomerates.

2/ Less than 1/2 unit.

3/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 8  
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF PELLETS, BY COUNTRY

Country of origin	1999					1998
	August		January-August			January-August
	Thousand metric tons	Value 1/ (thousand dollars)	Thousand metric tons	Value 1/ (thousand dollars)	Value 1/ (dollars per ton)	Thousand metric tons
Brazil	124	3,949	847	26,707	31.53	2,224
Canada	569	18,105	2,742	88,669	32.34	5,053
Venezuela	--	--	67	2,352	35.10	299
Other	100	3,115	207	6,861	33.14	200
Total 2/	793	25,169	3,864	124,589	32.24 3/	7,776

1/ Customs value. Excludes international freight, insurance, and other c.i.f. charges.

2/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

3/ Weighted average calculated by dividing total value by total tonnage.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 9  
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF IRON ORE,  
BY CUSTOMS DISTRICT 1/  
(Exclusive of ore containing 20% or more manganese)

(Thousand metric tons)

Customs district	August	January-August	
	1999	1999	1998
Baltimore, MD (13)	383	1,827	2,757
Buffalo, NY (09)	--	(2/)	13
Charleston, SC (16)	27	281	450
Chicago, IL (39)	233	1,186	1,181
Cleveland, OH (41)	81	360	556
Detroit, MI (38)	161	574	1,252
Houston - Galveston, TX (53)	--	45	49
Laredo, TX (23)	--	16	13
Los Angeles, CA (27)	--	(2/)	16
Miami, FL (52)	--	(2/)	--
Mobile, AL (19)	219	1,148	2,969
New Orleans, LA (20)	351	2,200	1,940
Nogales, AZ (26)	1	8	8
Ogdensburg, NY (07)	--	--	(2/)
Philadelphia, PA (11)	--	60	158
Total 3/	1,455	7,705	11,364

1/ Includes agglomerates.

2/ Less than 1/2 unit.

3/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 10  
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF PELLETS, BY CUSTOMS DISTRICT

(Thousand metric tons)

Customs district	August	January-August	
	1999	1999	1998
Baltimore, MD (13)	147	576	1,075
Charleston, SC (16)	27	176	278
Chicago, IL (39)	172	625	712
Cleveland, OH (41)	27	254	479
Detroit, MI (38)	136	550	1,252
Houston - Galveston, TX (53)	--	45	49
Laredo, TX (23)	--	16	13
Mobile, AL (19)	219	1,141	2,669
New Orleans, LA (20)	65	481	1,156
Philadelphia, PA (11)	--	--	94
Total 2/	793	3,864	7,776

1/ Less than 1/2 unit.

2/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

Source: Bureau of the Census.